

*pus bidentatus*. Of course, we need to complete long-term analyses of gonad changes and to refine experimental manipulation of degrowth conditions in laboratory setting (e.g. the effects of different temperature regimes). We do know that during the first breeding cycle of 1985, two-year-olds did not contribute to the reproductive effort. Furthermore, the minimum size for reproduction is not 5.8 mm for two-year-olds in the first breeding periods. Our work is continuing this summer and through the next year.

**HOST SPECIFICITY OF AN ECTOPARASITIC SNAIL IN THE GENUS *ODOSTOMIA* IN THE PANAMA BAY REGION (GASTROPODA: PYRAMIDELLIDAE).** J.E. Ward. University of Delaware, College of Marine Studies, Lewes.

Many species of snails in the family Pyramidellidae are

ectoparasitic on other marine invertebrates. Varying degrees of host specificity have been reported for many North American and European pyramidellids. However, host preferences of tropical parasitic pyramidellids are not known, and little has been reported on their feeding behavior or ecology.

In this study, ectoparasitic pyramidellids were collected in Panama Bay, Panama, from encrusting organisms. One abundant species was tentatively identified as belonging to the genus *Odostomia*, subgenus *Chrysallida*. Qualitative field and laboratory observations and quantitative choice experiments determined that this species of *Odostomia* feeds preferentially on serpulid polychaete worms. However, these ectoparasites are not host specific and can parasitize several species of bivalves common to the Panama Bay region.